

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 081626Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4373

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BE, CG

SUBJECT: KING BAUDOUIN WRITES PRESIDENT MOBUTU

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. BELGIAN PRESS CARRIED NEWS ITEM JULY 8 THAT KING BAUDOUIN HAD WRITTEN A PERSONAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU EXPRESSING CONCERN WITH AND UNDERSTANDING FOR ZAIRE'S DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION. LETTER WAS TRANSMITTED TO PRESIDENCY IN KINSHASA BY BELGIAN AMBASSADOR KERREMANS ON JULY 5. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMED US THAT LETTER WAS DESIGNED TO HELP IN BETTERING BELGO-ZAIRE RELATIONS AND IS FOLLOW-UP TO MINISTER OF EXTERNAL COMMERCE TOUSSAINT'S RECENT VISIT TO KINSHASA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR. TOUSSAINT VISIT WAS NON-POLITICAL, BUT BELGIANS WERE WELL-PLEASED WITH HIS RECEPTION BY MOBUTU AND OTHER GOZ OFFICIALS.

3. BELGIANS, WHILE UNDER NO DELUSIONS ABOUT NATURE OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE, BELIEVE THEY DETECT AN IMPROVEMENT IN THOSE RELATIONS IN THE OFFING AND WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. THEY INTERPRET MOBUTU'S RECENT COUP-PLOT ACCUSATIONS AS INDICATING HE FACES SIGNIFICANT INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS AND DOUBT THAT HIS POSITION IS NOW STRONG ENOUGH TO PERMIT HIM TO LEAVE ZAIRE FOR FORTHCOMING OAU MEETING IN KAMPALA. FIRESTONE

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Disposition Authority: izenbei0
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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